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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 21 | Humidity 71% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 82,029 | Nifty 25,145 | Gold 1,26,058 | Silver 1,59,100 | Dollar 88.82 | Euro 102.94 | GBP 118.10

MOVE IT ALONG

Outer Ring Road has traffic meltdown yet again, as jam stretches into hours, citizens try to laugh it off online

PAGE 4

BIN THERE, DONE THAT

City gets its first semi-automated dry waste collection centre that can handle 3 tonnes of trash per day

PAGE 6

Study records 43 species of butterflies on St Joseph's University campus; though number raises hope for our ecosystem, experts advise protection of CBD's green patches is way to go

ON A WING AND A PRAYER

Butterfly habitat selection is resource-dependent

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Not all is lost for Bengaluru, yet. Green patches in the central business district area of the city are still home to a variety of butterflies, indicating a healthy and thriving ecosystem. According to researchers from St Joseph's University, more than 40 species of butterflies are flourishing in and around the varsity campus.

"A total of 43 species of butterflies belonging to five families were recorded from the campus and the adjoining areas during a study we conducted a couple of years ago. This is a sign that urban pockets are still harbouring butterflies. However, we need to ensure that this biodiversity richness is maintained and improved," said Dr M Jayashankar, associate professor, Department of Zoology, St Joseph's University.

How to spot a butterfly

Butterflies were surveyed using a visual sampling approach in randomly selected green patches. Sampling was carried out twice a week, with observations recorded during three distinct time intervals – 8 am to 9 am, 1 pm to 2 pm,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Urbanisation is a threat, and considering the way the city has been fast changing, we wanted to understand how the CBD area is holding up with regards to butterfly diversity

—Sanjay P Desai, researcher

What's worse than a cancer stick?

Spurious cigarettes that look like branded products have undergone zero quality checks, contain toxic additives, intensifying health risks, say officials

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Counterfeit cigarette brands are quietly making their way into city markets, deceiving customers and posing severe health risks. These fake products, often packaged to look like legitimate brands, are being sold across busy commercial areas, prompting major tobacco companies to seek police intervention.

Unlike legally manufactured cigarettes that undergo strict quality and safety checks, counterfeit tobacco products are produced using unregulated and harmful ingredients in unhygienic conditions. Officials warn that such cigarettes often contain toxic additives and contaminants that intensify health risks for users.

In one such case, ITC Limited has filed a complaint after discovering that counterfeit versions of its popular cigarette brands were being sold in the city under the guise of "foreign-made" products. The company's authorised representative, a deputy manager from ITR Services, lodged a complaint with the Malleswaram Police, leading to the registration of an FIR against two suspects, identified as Paraj and Hanif allegedly involved in the racket.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Desi fun

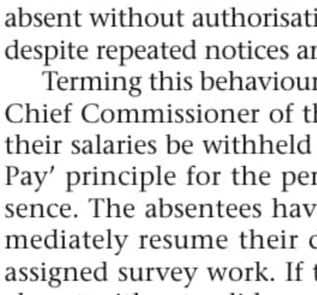
Watson's is turning up the energy this Diwali with the return of Desi Nights: Diwali Edition. This annual celebration brings together the best of Indian rhythms and global sounds for a vibrant Indo–Bolly fusion experience. **Where: Watson's Indiranagar; When: October 17, 8 pm**

02 Skill on display

Experience a vibrant celebration of India's handloom heritage at 'The Grand Rajasthani Exhibition', which brings together master weavers and skilled artisans from across the country. **Where: Sri Someshwara Sabha Bhavana, JP Nagar; When: Until October 22, 10.30 am to 8 pm onwards**

03 Let's get reel

'Vrindaban, Present Please' is an immersive, one-man interactive play set in a rural Indian village, which unravels questions about isolation, hidden truths, and the blurred lines between personal and professional life. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: October 17, 7 pm**



04 Jazz it up

Windmills is presenting MOCA, an international instrumental quartet born from a shared passion for jazz in Amsterdam. Blending world influences with contemporary jazz, MOCA's performances feature original compositions from each member. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: October 17 and 18, 9.30 pm**

05 DIY this Diwali

Orion Malls are holding a DIY Diwali workshop for children and families. Design your own creations with terracotta diya painting, candles and candle holders, wall hangings, stunning lotus wall decor and many more Diwali themed DIY creations. **Where: Orion Avenue Mall, Cooke Town & Orion Uptown Mall Whitefield–Hoskote; When: October 11, 12 and October 18, 19**

2,300 enumerators to face action

The Government of Karnataka and the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes are conducting a state-wide socio-educational survey, covering around 46 lakh households in Bengaluru alone. For this purpose, nearly 21,000 enumerators were appointed to carry out the survey work. While the majority—over 18,000 enumerators—have been performing their duties sincerely and are being appreciated for their efforts, around 2,300 enumerators have remained absent without authorisation despite repeated notices and reminders via SMS.

Terming this behaviour as gross misconduct, the Chief Commissioner of the GBA has ordered that their salaries be withheld under the 'No Work, No Pay' principle for the period of unauthorised absence. The absentees have been instructed to immediately resume their duties and complete the assigned survey work. If they continue to remain absent without valid reasons, further disciplinary action, including suspension, will be initiated against them. **— BMB**

Don't let tummy trouble steal your festival fun

Doctors warn of increasing cases of diarrhoea, gastritis and gastroenteritis in children, cite poor eating habits, contaminated food and hygiene as major causes

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After the weekend of festival celebrations, doctors have reported a noticeable rise in the number of children suffering from diarrhoea and viral gastritis. Health experts say stomach infections, likely triggered by food contamination and changes in routine during the festive week, have become increasingly common.

Doctors have also observed a steady increase in gastroenteritis cases in outpatient departments. They attribute the spike to recent travel, consumption of outside food, and viral infections circulating post-festivities. In some cases, bacterial dysentery has also been detected, prompting doctors to advise parents to ensure children stay hydrated and consume freshly prepared food.

Dr Gunda Srinivas, Consultant, Paediatrics Emergency and Paediatrics, Aster RV Hospital, stated that there has been a clear rise in cases recently, with most incidents being food-induced, often seen after weekends, festivals, birthday parties, or school trips. "Alongside, viral gastritis and flu-related stomach infections are also common. A few bacterial infections like typhoid have contributed too. The changing food patterns, irregular eating, and increased dining out seem to be major triggers," said Dr Srinivas.

It has been noted that both food-related and infection-related causes are being seen equally. Dr Srinivas highlighted that there are two distinct types of food-related problems that parents must understand. "Food intolerance or overload: Clean food that is too spicy or heavy — such as cheese-loaded, fried, non-vegetarian dishes, ice creams, or multiple rich foods eaten in a short time — can cause vomiting and diarrhoea without fever, which usually settles in 1 to 2 days. Infectious gastroenteritis: Caused by contaminated food or water — such as typhoid or bacterial toxins in stale food — this type is usually accompanied by high fever, severe abdominal pain, and fatigue," said Dr Srinivas.

Dr Rakshay Shetty, Paediatric Intensivist and Director of PICU, Rainbow Children's Hospital, Marathahalli, pointed out that following the monsoon, fluctuating temperatures and exposure to contaminated food or water significantly increase the risk of viral gastroenteritis. "Most cases are viral rather than bacterial. Viral infections are common this time of year. They usually settle in three to five days with adequate hydration and rest," said Dr Shetty, adding that parents should watch out for warning signs like persistent vomiting, lethargy, sunken eyes, dry mouth, or reduced urine output as these indicate dehydration and need immediate medical attention. "Majority of children can be managed on an outpatient basis, though a small number require hospitalisation for intravenous fluids when oral intake is poor. We may continue to see such cases through October and November, but awareness goes a long way in preventing complications," said Dr Shetty.

Parents should watch out for warning signs like persistent vomiting, lethargy, sunken eyes, dry mouth, or reduced urine output, says doctor

Dr Anuradha Vinod, Consultant - Paediatrics, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road, stated that parents should ensure children drink boiled water while travelling and practise proper hand hygiene when eating outside food. Dr Vinod cautioned that with the festive season approaching, it's important to avoid uncooked food and contaminated water, as current inpatient cases are low but could rise without proper precautions.

Gentle care at home

1. Stop heavy foods temporarily. Focus on light, soothing liquids like tender coconut water, buttermilk, or ORS.
2. Offer simple, easily digestible foods — idly, upma, pongal, khichdi, or rice gruel in small frequent feeds.
3. Avoid force feeding.
4. Intake of liquids is a priority.
5. Keep an eye on urine output and activity level.

If vomiting persists beyond 2–3 episodes or the child appears weak or refuses fluids, don't wait — seek medical help. Self-medication should be avoided.

Important note– Avoid giving ORS liquid tetra packs, as they often contain unbalanced sugar levels and lack scientific formulation, which may worsen symptoms—especially during diarrhoeal illness.

(Source: Dr Gunda Srinivas)

Govt plans new film museum

The government has proposed to set up a museum at the Film and Television Institute in Hesaraghatta. The museum will showcase vintage cameras and sound recording equipment used during the pre-independence era, ensuring that the state's pioneering contributions to film technology are remembered and celebrated. Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar said that to complement this heritage initiative, the Department of Higher Education has also taken steps to modernise the Film and Television Institute to meet contemporary standards. He said that a committee of experienced technical experts will be formed to guide the transformation of the institute. **— BMB**

Special trains from Bengaluru announced for Deepavali rush

To ease passenger congestion during the Deepavali festival, South Western Railway has announced several special train services from Bengaluru to different parts of Karnataka and neighboring states. The Hubballi–SMVT Bengaluru Special Express (07345) will depart Hubballi on October 11 and reach Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT) the same night at 8 pm, halting at Haveri, Harihar, Davanagere, Arsikere, and Tumakuru. The SMVT Bengaluru–Vijayapura Special Express (06245) will leave Bengaluru on October 17 at 10 pm and arrive in Vijayapura the next day at 2.05 pm. The return service (06246) will depart Vijayapura on October 22 at 7 pm and reach Bengaluru at 11.15 am the following day. Similarly, the Yeshwanthpur–Talaguppa Special Express (06587) will run on October 17 and 24, departing at 10.30 pm and reaching Talaguppa at 4.15 am The return train (06588) will leave Talaguppa on October 18 and 25 at 10 am and arrive in Yeshwanthpur at 5.15 pm.

For passengers travelling to Kerala, the SMVT Bengaluru–Kollam Special Express (06561) will depart on October 16 at 3 pm and reach Kollam at 6.30 am the next day. The return Kollam–Bengaluru Cantonment Express (06562) will run on October 17, leaving Kollam at 10.45 pm and arriving in Bengaluru at 3.30 am. The KSR Bengaluru–Thoothukudi Special Express (06297) will operate on October 17 and 21, departing at 10 pm and reaching Thoothukudi by 11 am the next day. The return Thoothukudi–Bengaluru Cantonment Express (06298) will leave on October 18 and 22 at 2 pm and arrive in Bengaluru at 4.15 am the next morning. **— BMB**

Illegal crackers seized

Ahead of Diwali, city police have cracked down on illegal firecrackers, arresting two individuals and seizing over 350 boxes worth more than ₹15 lakh to ensure safe celebrations.

In Kumbalgodu, police arrested a man for storing firecrackers without a valid licence, confiscating 317 boxes valued at ₹10.13 lakh. Officers received information that he had stockpiled the explosives at a house in Samruddhi Layout, Dhananayakanahalli, for illegal sale. Acting on the tip-off, police registered a case under the Explosives Act. During questioning, the accused reportedly admitted hoarding the stock for profit, ignoring all safety measures.

In a separate incident, Kengeri police arrested Hathi (43), a resident of Kalasipalya and owner of a travel agency, after raiding the ground floor of the Ayyappa Swamy Trust building. Officers seized 36 boxes worth ₹5.5 lakh, stored in a densely populated area without safety permits. The accused was also allegedly distributing firecrackers across the city using private vehicles.

A senior police officer confirmed that both had stored firecrackers without the mandatory licence from the City Police Commissioner's office and had been booked under relevant sections of the Explosives Act. **BMB**

₹2 crore narcotics bust shocks city

Electronic City Police arrested two foreign nationals, Okke Chindeu Samuel (34) and Kwikiriza Topista (27), for allegedly selling banned narcotics, including MDMA crystals and cocaine. The seizure from their possession is valued at `2.15 crore.

On October 8, police received a tip-off that drugs were being sold in a vacant lot at Mahalaxmi Layout, Phase 1, Electronic City. Acting swiftly, officers raided the site and apprehended Samuel. During interrogation, he confessed to selling MDMA and cocaine and revealed the involvement of Topista.

Following this lead, police arrested Topista from Tech City Layout, Phase 1. A total of 490 grams of MDMA crystals, 43 grams of cocaine, a weighing machine, a mobile phone, and a two-wheeler were seized.

A case under the NDPS Act has been registered. Both suspects appeared in court on October 9 and were remanded; one remains absconding. **BMB**

Politicians targeted in hoax scare

Following a spate of hoax bomb threat emails targeting institutions across the city, including the residences of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, Bengaluru city police have formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to track the perpetrators. The SIT, led by a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) and supervised by Joint Commissioner of Police, West Division C Vanshikrishna, is probing the technical and operational aspects of the case.

Bengaluru has recorded 34 bomb threat cases targeting schools, the airport, and political residences, part of a nationwide wave of over 100 threats, including Mumbai, Delhi, and Chennai. Preliminary probes suggest emails may originate from Tamil Nadu, often referencing politicians. Police are tracing shifting IP addresses across platforms and coordinating with Tamil Nadu authorities to catch the suspects. **BMB**

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Foreign citizens duped, 16 scamsters held

Bengaluru police have busted a large-scale cyber fraud racket run under the guise of a fake BPO, Cybits Solutions Pvt Ltd, arresting 16 individuals who allegedly duped US citizens by posing as American law enforcement officials.

On October 7, 2025, the HSR Layout Police received credible information about the fraudulent BPO.

Officers discovered the company had recruited 20–25 young men and women online, promising attractive jobs with free accommodation, meals, and transport. Recruits were trained over three weeks to execute cyber fraud operations targeting foreign nationals.

The accused contacted US citizens while posing as officials from agencies such as the "US Federal Investigation Service" or the "US Postal Service Investigation Section," falsely accusing victims of drug trafficking or money laundering and demanding online payments to "clear" the charges.

Police raided the office and two PG accommodations where employees stayed separately, seizing 41 computer systems, mobile phones, fake IDs, routers, modems, attendance registers, and scripts used to impersonate law enforcement.

The 16 arrested are Madhev Singh, Francis, Minot Kankai, Karthik Raju, Sunil, Aravind, Rakesh Kumar, Inder Yadav, Rohan, Ramakrishna, Rishit, Remison, Guru Prasanna, Phani Leybha, Priyanka, and Eljiba, including eight from Maharashtra, four from Meghalaya, and one each from Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and Gujarat.

They received salaries of around ₹22,000 plus commissions. Authorities suspect two or three similar companies exist and are tracing the masterminds behind the operation. **BMB**

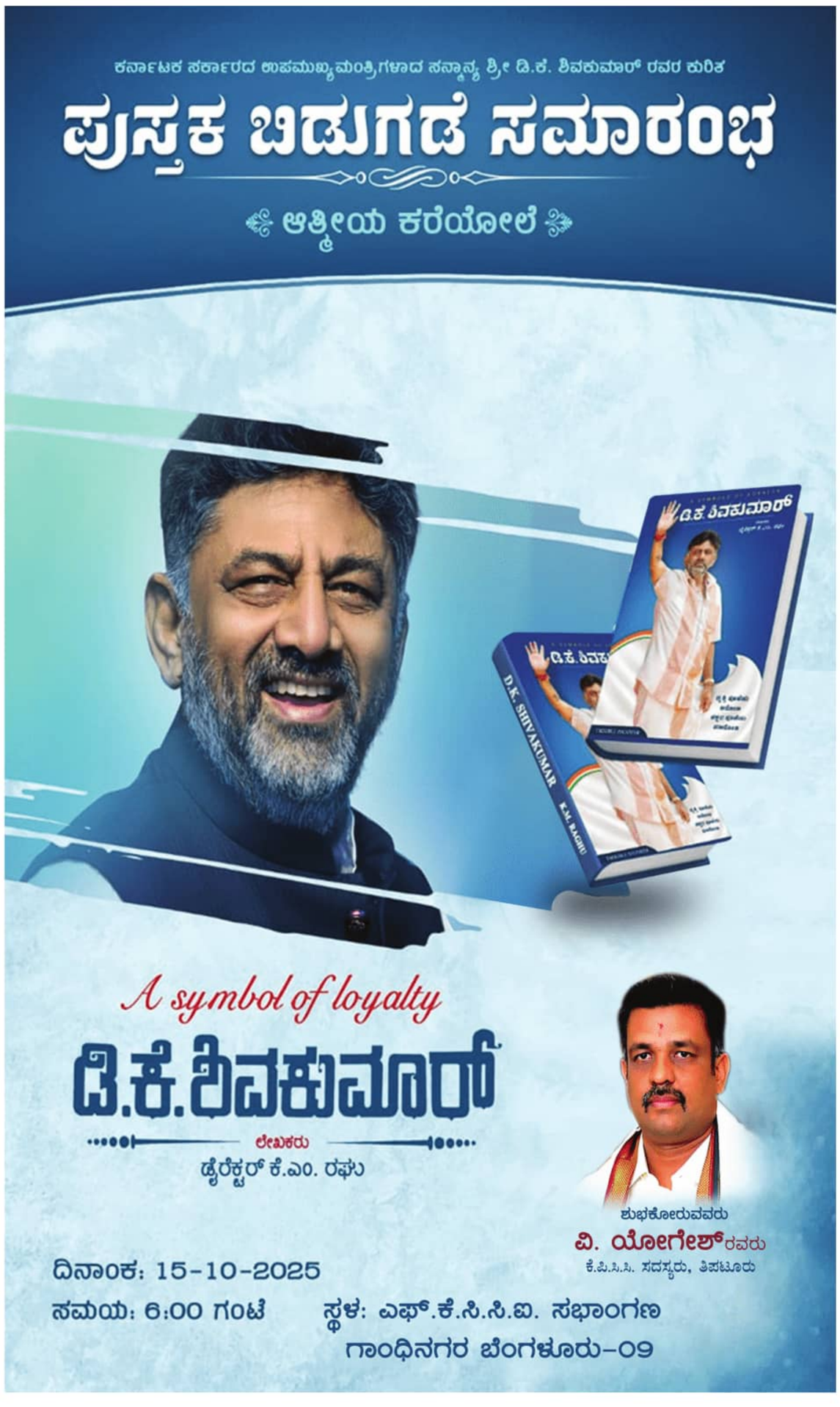
Fake guru's gold grab

Hulimavu police arrested a 49-year-old man, posing as a tantrik, for cheating several people under the pretext of performing rituals to solve their personal problems. The accused, identified as Dadapeer, a native of Kolar who ran a bicycle repair shop, convinced victims that hidden treasures were buried in their homes and offered to retrieve them—but instead fled with their gold jewellery. Police recovered 485.4 grams of gold ornaments worth ₹53 lakh from his residence.

Dadapeer targeted middle-class families, claiming their misfortunes were caused by supernatural forces. He offered special pujas to remove these curses and, after gaining their trust, demanded gold ornaments for rituals, promising a 20–25% commission if treasures were found. During the rituals, he placed the jewellery in a box, buried it, and asked victims to leave, then absconded. He later contacted victims for a few weeks before switching off his phone.

Police traced him using photographs from victims and through a similar case in Shivamogga. He frequently changed SIM cards and dressed according to the community he targeted. Dadapeer, who has three wives, ten children, and multiple extramarital affairs, spent much of his earnings on personal relationships. His arrest has solved three cases, with seven more, including in Andhra Pradesh, under investigation. **BMB**

BM Retail & Shopping



Outer Regret Road': City's endless traffic torment

Commuters faced hours-long delays on Bengaluru's ORR as a BMTC bus breakdown triggered severe traffic jams across multiple tech corridor stretches

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A massive traffic jam stretching for several kilometres brought Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road (ORR) to a crawl on Tuesday afternoon, after a BMTC bus broke down near the notoriously busy Ecospace Junction.

According to an advisory issued by the Bengaluru Traffic Police at 4.43 pm, the breakdown crippled vehicle movement towards Marathahalli, Kadubeesanahalli, Devarabisanahalli, and Bellandur, leading to painfully slow-moving traffic and long queues in both directions.

"Traffic advisory: Due to vehicle breakdown near the EcoSpace junction towards Marathahalli, Kadubeesanahalli, Devarabisanahalli, Bellandur is having slow-moving traffic," the police posted on X (formerly Twitter). The gridlock quickly snowballed as evening showers, peak-hour office congestion, and the ongoing vacation rush added to the chaos. Commuters reported spending over two hours to cover just 10 to 12 kilometres.

"Pathetic traffic... it took 2 hours 10 mins from Brookfield to Sarjapur Road — just 12 km," wrote one user, while another said, "One bus stopped on the road made the whole of Bengaluru cry for hours."

"10 kms, 1 hr 40 minutes on ORR. Unlivable city. Needs serious intervention," posted another frustrated commuter. The situation worsened due to white-topping works, service road closures, and the lack of immediate towing support. Several users tagged the Bengaluru Traffic Police and BBMP, questioning the readiness to handle breakdowns in such high-traffic corridors.

"No emergency towing vehicles on ORR!? Such a horrible state of affairs," one commuter complained, while another quipped, "Bengaluru ORR is not a road bro, it's a lifestyle. Swalpa patience, swalpa podcast, full traffic."

Adding to the pressure, the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) recently announced partial road closures between 9th Main Road Junction and 5th Main Road Junction for metro station construction — a 45-day restriction expected to worsen congestion further.

Despite repeated advisories and alternate route suggestions, the Outer Ring Road remains one of the city's most clogged stretches, housing hundreds of tech parks and offices. As one user put it in exasperation, "Sometimes I feel Outer Ring Road should be renamed to Outer Regret Road."

Massive traffic jam stretching for several kilometres at ORR

According to a Bengaluru Traffic Police advisory at 4.43 pm, the breakdown brought vehicle movement towards Marathahalli, Kadubeesanahalli, Devarabisanahalli, and Bellandur to a near standstill, causing long queues and slow traffic in both directions

'Crumbling city': Pai slams city's potholes

Complaints over potholes in Bengaluru continue to flood social media, with entrepreneur TV Mohandas Pai slamming the city's crumbling infrastructure and worsening traffic. Sharing his frustration, Pai said it took him nearly an hour and 45 minutes to travel from Bellandur to the airport due to dug-up, pothole-ridden roads. Tagging Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Minister Priyank Kharge, he urged immediate action, saying such conditions reflect not progress but rampant corruption and poor governance. "Can't we have roads without potholes? This isn't AI work—it's been the same story for over 200 years," he posted, tagging the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

Backing his concerns, Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw questioned the government's lack of will to fix Bengaluru and make it a world-class city. She later shared that an overseas business visitor to Biocon Park had expressed shock at the poor condition of roads and garbage. "Doesn't the government want to support investment?" she quoted him as saying, comparing Bengaluru unfavourably with Chinese cities.

Trees fall, Malleswaram station gets modern makeover

In response to a public notice issued by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) in February, Bengaluru's Tree Expert Committee has approved the cutting and removal of over 53 trees to facilitate the modernization of Malleswaram Railway Station under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

The South Western Railway project will include extension of the station building, provision of facilities for differently-abled persons (Divyangan) and passengers with reduced mobility, widening of platforms, construction of platform shelters, parking shelters, and a foot-over-bridge equipped with lifts and escalators.

According to SW Railway officials, several trees in the parking area are dried and at risk of falling, posing danger to passengers. Some are in a leaning position, prompting concerns over train operations and passenger safety.

"At present, there is no proper parking available at Malleswaram Railway Station. Being an important station, it is essential to develop public utilities for the convenience of passengers and the general public. Maximum efforts have been made to minimise tree removal, and many trees have been saved by replanning the circulating area," SWR stated in its reply. 4

The modernisation is expected to enhance accessibility, safety, and infrastructure, while balancing environmental considerations with public utility development. — BMB

Bengaluru-bound Amazon orders worth Rs 18L stolen

Four men were arrested in Nuh in Haryana for their alleged involvement in robbing a container full of Bengaluru-bound Amazon orders worth Rs 18 lakh from Karnataka, police said on Tuesday.

The men involved in the theft were allegedly planning to sell the stolen goods in Nuh and Palwal in Haryana, they said. The stolen goods are yet to be recovered. All four men allegedly involved in the robbery on Friday have been handed over to the Karnataka Police for further probe. According to police, an FIR was registered in Karnataka on Sunday on the complaint of Rajesh Kumar, an executive of Camions Logistics Solutions Private Limited. In his complaint, he said the company's vehicle was loaded with Amazon-booked parcels and sent from Mumbai to Bengaluru. Two drivers of the company, Muwarik and Pankaj Kumar, were driving the vehicle. On the night of October 10, the GPS signal of the vehicle suddenly went off. The company's tracking team traced the location and found the vehicle parked on the roadside near Goraldaku Gate, Hiriyur tehsil in Chitradurga district in Karnataka, he said.

When the team reached the spot, Muwarik said Pankaj gave him a cold drink near Belgaum, after which he became unconscious. When he regained consciousness, Pankaj was missing, and the rear portion of the vehicle was found cut open. It was found that 432 Amazon packets, worth around Rs 18.67 lakh, had been stolen, police said. — PTI

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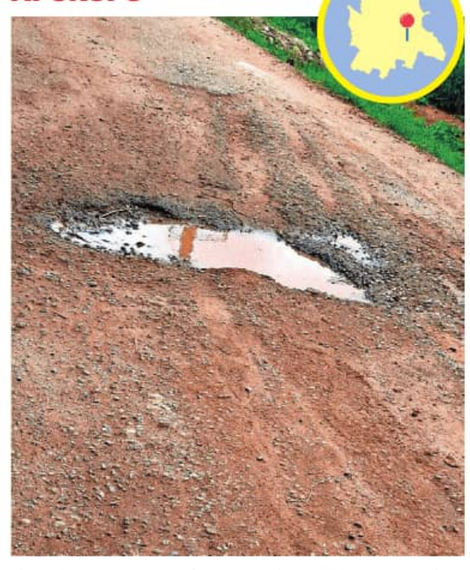
Dark street
Linden Street

Streetlight near a government school on Linden Street, Ward 111, has been out for a week despite repeated complaints.

Lingering mess
Ramamurthynagar

An open drain near a church in Ramamurthynagar has been left unattended for months, with repair work dragging on.

Crumbling Road
Arekere



Craters have formed on the road between Arekere and Byrapura in Yelahanka, barely a year after it was white-topped. Residents urge authorities to carry out repairs at the earliest.

City's vanishing divider leaves motorists shifting in sheer panic

Poor lighting and missing markers turn St John's Medical College Road into a dangerous night-time obstacle course for daily riders

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PIC FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

The absence of reflectors on the road divider along St John's Medical College Road, particularly on the stretch connecting Madiwala and Hosur Road, has become a major safety concern for commuters. The poorly lit divider, barely visible at night or during rain, poses a serious threat to both two- and four-wheeler riders navigating this busy stretch.

Motorists say that "the divider, which runs through a high-traffic zone near St John's Hospital and the Madiwala junction, is not marked with any reflective paint or warning signs. At night, the lack of visibility often causes riders to swerve at the last minute to avoid hitting the concrete barrier. Several near-miss incidents have already been reported," according to regular commuters.

Reflectors play a crucial role in preventing such accidents. They significantly improve safety by increasing visibility for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers, especially at night or during poor weather conditions. By reflecting light from vehicle headlights back to the driver, reflectors make it easier to identify road boundaries, dividers, and potential hazards from a distance. They are also a low-maintenance and cost-effective solution for improving road safety and are considered essential for compliance with road design and traffic management standards.

"The absence of reflective paint or markers on the road dividers along Hosur Road from Dairy Circle to St John's Hospital Road poses a serious safety risk for motorists and pedestrians. Due to the lack of proper reflection, the dividers are not clearly visible at night or during low-light conditions. I kindly request the concerned department to take necessary action to repaint the dividers with reflective paint or install reflective strips or catapults to improve visibility and ensure safer driving conditions," says Pradeep Mendonca, a resident commuter.

BBMP and traffic police officials acknowledged the issue. "If commuters could come forward and guide us about the lack of reflectors and poor lighting, we can write to the concerned department and request them to install reflective stickers to ensure the divider is visible. We will do the needful to ensure commuters' safety," said a traffic officer from the Adugodi Traffic Police Station.

The problem is exacerbated by the uneven road surface and the absence of proper lane markings. Auto drivers and cab operators also noted that headlights from oncoming vehicles make it even harder to spot the divider.

"Road safety is very important for our city, especially with so much construction going on. We need basic reflectors in the medians — it is very dangerous, particularly during rain and at night when visibility drops. This can be fatal. We need to focus on road safety at major junctions, intersections, and at flyover entry and exit ramps," said Vinod Jacob, Urban Strategist.

Regular commuters are urging authorities to act swiftly, calling for the installation of reflectors, road studs, and improved street lighting. As one of the key connecting routes with high levels of traffic between Madiwala, Koramangala, and Hosur Road, St John's Medical College Road requires urgent attention to prevent further mishaps and ensure the safety of daily commuters.

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Bengaluru gets first ever semi automated waste sorting hub

Adugodi's new DWCC promises safer, faster recycling with semi-automation, easing wastepickers' workload and improving efficiency in solid waste management

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In a major step towards improving solid waste management in the city, the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), in collaboration with Let's Be the Change, has set up the city's first semi-automated Dry Waste Collection Centre (DWCC) at Adugodi. The centre, supported through CSR funds, will be officially launched on Wednesday.

The initiative is part of BBMP's 2023 vision to modernise and upgrade DWCCs across Bengaluru to operate more efficiently, similar to Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). The Adugodi centre is designed to ease the workload on waste pickers who currently spend long hours sorting through heaps of mixed dry waste. With semi-automation, the process will become faster, safer, and more dignified for workers, while improving resource recovery and operational efficiency across the city's waste management network.

Spread across a shop floor area of 3,600 square feet, the facility also includes additional storage space. The waste will be segregated into 12–15 categories such as plastics, paper, metals, and glass — a process known as deep sorting. "Many DWCCs face space constraints and lack proper infrastructure for sorting. This organised facility can handle up to four tonnes of dry waste per day," explained Wilma Rodrigues, Chief Transformation Officer of Saahas Zero Waste, the knowledge partner for the project.

The city's first semi-automated Dry Waste Collection Centre aims to ease the workload on waste pickers and make the sorting process efficient and more dignified

The city's first semi-automated Dry Waste Collection Centre in Adugodi, launched by BSWML and Let's Be the Change, introduces technology-driven sorting for cleaner, efficient recycling, ensuring safety and dignity for waste workers

The process begins when dry waste is brought in by neighbourhood collection teams. Facility operators first ensure that the waste is not mixed before moving it to the sorting area. Workers then segregate the material into different categories, which are later baled separately using semi-automated machines. Once enough material is accumulated, typically after a week, it is dispatched to registered recyclers for processing, helping create a more circular waste economy.

On average, a worker can sort around 120 kg of waste per day, but this productivity is expected to increase significantly with the use of semi-automated system. "The new setup allows us to track the inflow, sorting, and outflow of waste. By capturing this data, we can measure the efficiency and actual impact of the process," Rodrigues added.

Anirudh S Dutt from Let's Be the Change highlighted that several existing DWCCs struggle with irregular electricity and water supply, which often disrupt daily operations. "Going forward, we plan to make the centres solar-powered to ensure uninterrupted functioning and lower operational costs," he said.

Dutt also emphasised how the new system will benefit waste pickers. "This facility will make their work easier and safer. Instead of manually sifting through large piles of mixed waste, they can now sort waste in a cleaner, more organised environment. It reduces physical strain, health risks, and helps them earn a more stable income through systematic sorting and recycling," he said.

Rodrigues noted that sustaining DWCCs requires adequate manpower and financial support. "The revenue generated through recyclers alone is not sufficient to run these centres. Operational costs must be covered to ensure timely wages, proper supervision, and safety compliance. Senior managers must monitor data, maintain records, and ensure all workers use protective gear while handling waste," she added. The Adugodi model, officials hope, will become a replicable benchmark for other zones across Bengaluru.

KHB expands Suryanagar project with acquisition

The Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) is set to acquire an additional 135 acres and 20 guntas of land in villages surrounding the Suryanagar Phase 4 Housing Project in Anekal taluk. The Board has already secured 1,938 acres in Kasaba hobli, where a state-approved international cricket stadium and multi-sports complex are planned. Of this, 1,211 acres in Kadujakkannahalli, Bagganadoddi, and Indlavadi are being developed under a 50:50 land-sharing model with landowners, featuring modern duplex housing units. Around 25 acres have been allocated for the cricket stadium, while part of the new 135-acre acquisition will provide access roads and parking facilities. The latest acquisition includes 71.12 acres in Bagganadoddi, 31.48 acres in Indlavadi, and 31.39 acres in Kadujakkannahalli to support the project's rapid and sustainable expansion. — BMB

KEA opens third-round counselling window

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has sanctioned 200 additional MBBS seats for Karnataka, allotting 50 seats each to Subbaiah Institute (Shivamogga), BGS Medical College (Bengaluru), Sridevi Medical College (Tumakuru), and AJ Institute of Medical Sciences (Mangaluru). With this, the total number of MBBS seats under the government quota through the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has increased to 10,216 for the current academic year. KEA has opened registration and modification for the third round of medical counselling until 8 a.m. on October 15, covering 377 existing MBBS seats, 200 newly added seats, and 180 dental seats. Candidates who have already secured seats may also upgrade their choices, while those who have paid earlier need not pay again. New applicants must pay the prescribed amount. — BMB

Mosque Road finally smoothened after prolonged white-topping delays

Following the Bangalore Mirror report highlighting the hazardous condition of roads in Frazer Town due to incomplete white-topping work, the pending section on Mosque Road has now been completed. The uneven patch that had been left open after the initial work has been cemented and levelled, ensuring a smoother and safer ride for motorists and pedestrians.

Bangalore Mirror
Frazer Town roads turn hazardous after white-topping work delays
Residents warn deep gaps, loose debris on Mosque and MM Roads have created accident-prone stretches despite ongoing temporary safety measures

Bangalore Mirror reported about the state of the road on October 8

Earlier, officials had stated that the unlevelled portion was left to facilitate the installation of medians. However, the plan was not executed, and instead, the road was levelled and the work completed. Residents, who had previously expressed concerns over the safety risks, have now welcomed the move.

"I'm really happy with the way the road looks now. Earlier, we had to slow down suddenly because of the uneven gap, but now it's properly levelled. It's much safer now. We could often see accidents due to that gap," said Ahmed, a resident of Frazer Town.

Before the completion, several two-wheeler riders had experienced near accidents because of the uneven surface. "I almost tripped one evening because of a large gap. It was risky, especially after dark," said another resident. While Mosque Road's problem has been resolved, residents of MM Road continue to urge authorities to finish pending work without delay. — BMB

Ramalinga Reddy defends BMTC, slams push for bus privatisation

Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy has firmly opposed any move to privatise Bengaluru's public bus services, asserting that the BMTC remains the city's lifeline, carrying nearly 48 lakh passengers daily. Dismissing proposals by MP Tejasvi Surya and entrepreneur Mohandas Pai to allow private operators, Reddy said such suggestions stem from an elitist mindset that disregards the needs of ordinary citizens.

He noted that the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation operates 7,067 buses, including 1,799 electric ones — a fleet far larger than other metros. Chennai's MTC runs 3,651 buses, Mumbai's BEST 3,794, Delhi's DTC 3,222, and Kolkata just 750.

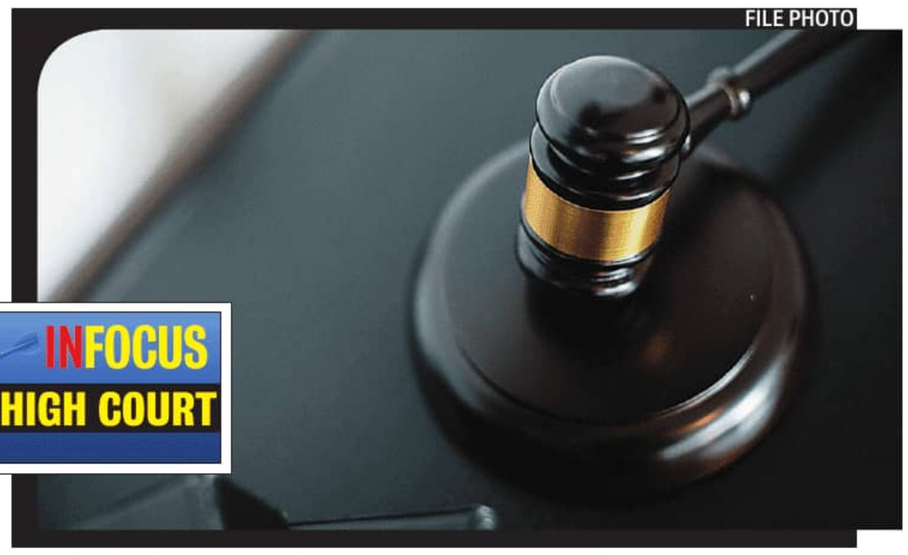
Highlighting Karnataka's leadership in public transport, Reddy said the state operates 26,054 buses — 6.84 per 1,000 people — the highest ratio in India, surpassing Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. Over the past two years and five months, the government has added 5,800 buses and recruited 10,000 staff, offering ₹1 crore accident insurance and cashless medical care. Calling public transport a welfare service, not a profit venture, Reddy concluded, "Bengaluru needs more buses, not no more buses." — BMB

Rules for doctors going for higher studies

The Karnataka Health Department has released new rules for government doctors seeking postgraduate and super-specialty education under the in-service quota or deputation. To qualify, doctors must have at least seven years of total service, including two years of compulsory rural service and five years of regular service. Those studying under the in-service quota must do so at their own expense, without salary, deputation benefits, or paid study leave. Any leave requires prior approval from competent authorities. Only doctors with a minimum of six years of rural service qualify for postgraduate or super-specialty courses under this scheme. Additionally, doctors admitted through the in-service quota must sign a bond committing to serve the government for at least ten years or until retirement, ensuring continued contribution to the state's public healthcare system. — BMB

Jet Airways employee wins compensation battle

HC maintains Industrial Tribunal's earlier payout order, directs payment of Rs 13 lakh, along with interest accrued on fixed deposit set aside by Jet Airways following interim stay on order in 2017


FILE PHOTO

INFOCUS HIGH COURT

The Karnataka High Court has directed the liquidation-bound Jet Airways to pay Rs 13 lakh, along with accrued interest, to a former employee who was dismissed from service, upholding an earlier Industrial Tribunal award in his favour.

A division bench comprising Justice DK Singh and Justice Venkatesh Naik T dismissed Jet Airways' plea challenging the Tribunal's 2017 order, holding that the employee's right to receive back wages had "crystallised on the date of the award," much before the airline entered liquidation.

The case concerns Prashant Rao, who had joined Jet Airways as a customer service assistant in 1999 and was dismissed from service on August 30, 2008, following disciplinary proceedings initiated by the airline. Rao challenged the decision before the Industrial Tribunal, arguing that the inquiry was unfair and violated principles of natural justice.

In its award dated January 13, 2017, the Tribunal held that the charges against Rao were not proven and that the disciplinary proceedings had indeed breached fairness standards. It declared the dismissal illegal and directed Jet Airways to reinstate him with all consequential benefits, including 50 per cent back wages.

Jet Airways subsequently filed a writ petition before the High Court and obtained an interim stay in April 2017, on the condition that it deposit Rs 13 lakh, representing 50 per cent of the back wages, with the Court Registry. The amount was duly deposited and placed in a fixed deposit.

However, during the pendency of the case, the airline entered corporate insolvency proceedings, and an official liquidator took control of its assets. Representing the liquidator, counsel argued that since Jet Airways had ceased operations, reinstatement was impossible, and the deposited funds should be treated as part of the company's liquidation estate under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). It was further submitted that the employee should claim his dues through the IBC mechanism like other creditors.

Rejecting the liquidator's arguments, the bench ruled that the employee's entitlement to back wages had already become a vested right as of January 13, 2017, well before the liquidation proceedings began. Concluding the matter, the High Court directed the Registry to release the Rs 13 lakh, along with interest accrued on the fixed deposit, to Prashant Rao upon proper identification.

Holiday grace for licence deadline

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that an application for renewal of a quarry lease licence can be submitted until midnight on the last day of its validity, and if that day falls on a public holiday, it may be filed on the next working day.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi made this observation while allowing a petition filed by M/s Annapurneshwari Minerals. The company had challenged an order dated August 13, 2020, issued by the Joint Director and Revision Authority, Department of Mines and Geology, South Zone, Mysuru, which had rejected its renewal application under Rule 28 of the Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1994.

The bench clarified that since the lease expired at midnight on a holiday, the petitioner was entitled to file the application the next day. Holding that the rejection of the renewal was legally unsustainable, the court set aside the impugned orders and remanded the matter to the Revisional Authority for reconsideration.

HC allows Kambala expansion

The Karnataka HC has permitted the state government to organise the traditional buffalo race event 'Kambala' beyond the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi. The decision came while rejecting a petition filed by the animal rights organisation People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), which contended that conducting the event outside these regions served "purely commercial purposes" and was not rooted in local tradition. —BMB

SOCIALTATTLE

Visual of the day

Hamsaveni.N
@Hamsaa04
Follow
#Bengaluru ORR, this evening. Multiple reasons for the chaos including, multiple service roads and adjacent road closures, whitetopping works, and a vehicle breakdown.
I might leave the office late today!
8:41 pm · 14 Oct 25 · 138 Views

A video by @Hamsaa04 shared on X described the heavy traffic witnessed on Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road (ORR) yesterday evening. The user noted that multiple service road and adjacent road closures, ongoing whitetopping work, and a vehicle breakdown had contributed to the chaos. The situation was further worsened by rain, peak-hour congestion, and vacation rush, leading to massive delays. In the post, the user remarked that they might have to leave office late due to the gridlock.

What's Tweeting

India & The World
@IndianInfoGuid
Follow
"Bengaluru is the first Indian city to integrate live traffic signal timings into the Mappls navigation app.

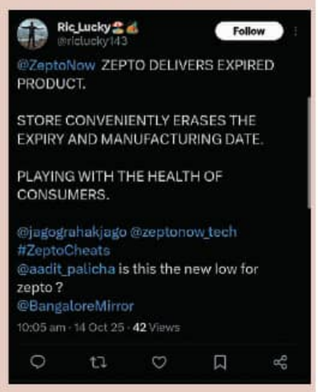
A post by @IndianInfoGuid stated that Bengaluru has become the first Indian city where live traffic signal timings have been integrated into the Mappls navigation app. The post highlighted how the feature is being introduced to help commuters plan smoother routes and reduce waiting time at signals, marking a significant step in using real-time data for smarter urban mobility.

A post by @Ashokmruthyu, State Spokesperson and Bengaluru Vice President of AAP, highlighted the severe traffic congestion at the AET Junction on Gear School Road. In the post, it was stated that wrong-side driving and chaotic movement of vehicles have become a daily issue, with roads remaining jam-packed during peak hours. The user added that nearly 20 police personnel would be required to manage traffic and ensure motorists drive on the correct side, while alleging that the Bellandur Traffic Police have not taken any action despite repeated problems in the area.

Traffic traffic traffic!!! Gear school road.
Everyday problem at Gear school road.
Wrong side driving. Traffic all over. Roads are jam packed.
Need 20 police men to ask people to drive in the right way.
@blrcitytraffic @bellandururtfps
@turahalli @saveturahalli
#ECityRising Show more

Bangalore Mirror tagged

A post by @riclucky143, tagging @BangaloreMirror and @ZeptoNow, alleged that expired products were being delivered by Zepto. The user claimed that the store had erased the expiry and manufacturing dates before dispatching the items, accusing the company of endangering consumer health. Tagging @jagograhakjago, @zeptonow_tech, and Zepto co-founder @aadit_palicha, the post questioned whether this represented a "new low" for the delivery platform, using the hashtag #ZeptoCheats.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@riclucky143
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STORE CONVENIENTLY ERASES THE EXPIRY AND MANUFACTURING DATE.
PLAYING WITH THE HEALTH OF CONSUMERS.
@jagograhakjago @zeptonow_tech
#ZeptoCheats
@aadit_palicha is this the new low for zepto ?
@BangaloreMirror
10:05 am · 14 Oct 25 · 42 Views

INBRIEF

School roof collapses, 'caste census' holiday keeps students safe

Holidays on account of the caste census proved a boon for students of the Government Model Higher Primary School in Chittapur after the concrete roof of a classroom collapsed, school authorities said.

According to sources, the incident occurred on Monday afternoon, and no casualties were reported. The impact was so strong that all the furniture inside the room was destroyed, and the windows were shattered.

The 50-year-old school building houses Kannada, Urdu, and Marathi medium classes.

"Hundreds of students are being taught here. The situation is dire, with children having to attend lessons in fear for their lives every day. Teachers are worried that the entire building will collapse and claim the lives of their children," a resident told PTI.

A teacher said, "Our school building looks nice from the outside, but the condition inside is terrible. The concrete on the roof of all the rooms is falling off every day. When the school starts after the Dasara vacation, we will hold classes outside." —PTI

NIMHANS gets new tobacco testing lab

The 4th National Tobacco Testing Laboratory (NTTL) was inaugurated at NIMHANS, Bengaluru, marking a major step forward in tobacco control and public health research. The state-of-the-art laboratory will conduct detailed chemical and toxicological analyses of tobacco products to ensure regulatory compliance and scientific evaluation in line with national and global standards. Its establishment at NIMHANS highlights the institute's ongoing commitment to advancing research and strengthening public health policy. This initiative is expected to play a crucial role in evidence-based tobacco regulation and reducing the country's tobacco-related health burden.

The facility was inaugurated by Dr Rajendra P Joshi, Deputy Director General of Health Services, along with Dr Avinash Sunthalia, Deputy Additional Director General, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Prof Pratima Murthy, Director, NIMHANS. —BMB

Mining project rejected by Forest Ministry

Following a site inspection conducted by its regional office, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has decided to reject a mining proposal in the Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of the Bukkapatna Wildlife Sanctuary.

The controversial Sarangapani Iron and Manganese Ore Mining proposal had sought diversion of 48.20 hectares of forest land.

However, MoEF&CC noted that data from human–wildlife conflict compensation records from 2015–16 to 2025–26 show over 380 conflict cases, including elephant-related incidents, with total compensation amounting to Rs 43,01,720. Since these cases confirm the presence of a healthy wildlife population, any mining activity in these forests is likely to intensify human–wildlife conflicts.

The report has been filed after a site inspection conducted on September 23 and 25, following multiple objections against the project. —BMB

For butterfly kisses...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and 4 pm to 5 pm. Notably, the college campus lies in proximity to Lalbagh, Cubbon Park, and several lakes that have an abundance of flowering plants and host species for butterflies that function as urban microhabitats with a diversity of microfauna.

Researchers say butterfly habitat selection is resource-dependent, with species diversity indicating stability within the St. Joseph's campus and its adjoining areas. Habitat selection in butterflies is also highly specific and depends on the availability of resources for larvae and adults.

However, improving local plant species is of utmost importance to ensure improvements in butterfly diversity and to sustain butterfly populations. These measures would contribute to habitat stability, promote species richness, and ecological balance.

Important role

"Butterflies play an important role in pollination, like honey bees, and provide important ecological services. Apart from maintaining balance in the ecology, butterflies also have aesthetic value. However, urbanisation is a threat, and considering the way the city has been fast changing, we wanted to understand how the CBD area is holding up with regards to butterfly diversity," said Sanjay P Desai, who conducted the study.

According to Dr Jayashankar, since the on-ground work for the study was conducted a couple of years ago, there is a need to conduct a follow-up monitoring of the butterfly population and species.

Experts say butterflies are key indicators of urban biodiversity and also one of the most vulnerable species to changes due to climate change. However, with shrinking green spaces, there is a risk of loss of species.

"Butterflies indicate the well-being of a wider ecosystem. Each species prefers a different plant variety, and thus, a large number of species recorded also indicates plant diversity. However, the green patches in the CBD area of Bengaluru need to be protected and improved further to improve biodiversity," said Nandini N, professor at the Department of Environmental Science, Bengaluru University, and a member of Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee.

Smoking is injurious, this stuff is doubly so

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to the complaint, the company had been receiving information about the illegal sale of counterfeit ITC cigarettes around 8th Cross and Sampige Road in Malleswaram, a bustling retail zone.

Acting on these inputs, the representative visited the area on October 10 and found that the suspects were openly selling duplicate cigarettes to the public, claiming them to be imported products.

"These individuals have been circulating duplicate versions of ITC's cigarette brands using packaging deceptively similar to the original products," the complaint stated. "Their activities are causing significant financial losses to the company while eroding public trust in the brand."

Accused nabbed

Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused, reportedly from Mumbai, have been illegally distributing counterfeit cigarettes across parts of Bengaluru. Police suspect a wider network that may be sourcing the fake goods from other states and distributing them through informal retail channels.

According to police, the accused had already sold their first consignment of counterfeit cigarettes and were attempting to sell the second batch, however they were apprehended at the airport. According to the police, these fake cigarettes, sourced from Cambodia, were being purchased at cheap rates and sold in Bengaluru under the guise of branded products.

Officials said the seized cigarettes were produced without following any safety or quality norms, making them highly toxic and dangerous to health. The accused have been arrested, and police are now working to trace the supply chain and identify others connected to the racket.

The trade in counterfeit cigarettes has been a persistent issue across major Indian cities. Beyond massive revenue losses to legitimate manufacturers and the government through tax evasion, these fake products also violate tobacco control laws, as they often lack statutory health warnings and bypass regulatory oversight.

A senior officer added that such operations often span multiple states, with large consignments circulated through local markets. Investigators are verifying the extent of the network and whether more people are involved in the illegal trade.

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Sumukh Kanaka Varadaraja S/O, Anitha K B R/o No 20, Kanaka Santrupti Nilaya, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli, Bengaluru - 562110 have changed my name to Sumukh K.

I, Lakshminarayanarayana Narayanappa R/o. No. 228, Kadhri Road, Mhansa Hospital, Billur, Chikaballapur- 561124 have changed my name to LAKSHMINARAYANA NARAYANAPPA vide Affidavit dt. 14.10..2025. sworn before notary Mr. C Srinivas Bengaluru.

I, CHANDRAMOHANAKUBANOORAYA K P, Residing at Flat No 404, Sumukha Residency, 7th Cross, Kathriguppe, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085, Have changed my name to CHANDRAMOHAN KUBANOOR, vide affidavit dated 14/10/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

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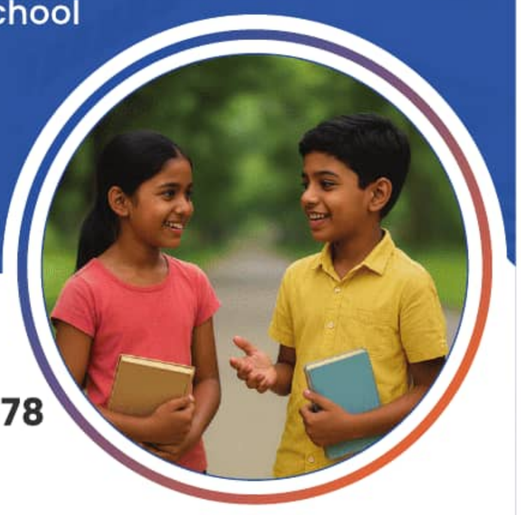

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I, Zarana Subodhbhai Gupta R/o Fl No G1 S R Gruham No 750 18th Cross Ideal Homes Sector D R R Nagar Bengaluru 560098 Have Changed My Name to Zarana Gupta for All Purposes

I, Yalle Shailajesh, Age- 64 Years S/o Yalle Nijagunappa R/o No 6/2, B M K Layout, 1st Cross, Chamrajapet, Bangalore, 560018 have changed my name to Yale Shailajesh for all purposes

I, Kuldeep, aged about 37 years, R/o No. A4-01, Royal Tulip Villa, Chikka Thirupati road, Anekal Taluk, Gudighattanahalli, PO: Sarjapura, DIST: Bengaluru, Karnataka – 562125, do hereby declare that I have changed my minor Daughter's name from "SANAYA" to "SANAYA DHARIWAL", henceforth she shall be known and called as "SANAYA DHARIWAL" for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 03-10-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary at G.B. Turamari Bangalore.

I, Suresh Babu S R/o No.4, 1st 'a' Cross Road, Chikkalasandra, Hanumagairinagar, Bangalore – 560 061 have changed my minor daughter's name from R. Poorvika to Poorvika Reddy N S.

I Sheelamma .K W/o R Naveen Kumar R/o #A4, Gagantara Apartment, Dinnur Main Road,R.T Nagar, Bengaluru-560032 have changed my name to Kavya Naveen for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 13-11-2018 before notary G.N. Venkataravanappa, B'luru

I Madan Lal Verma S/O, Gurdiyal Sharma R/o No 216 Prasanna Aswarthy Nilaya 3rd Cross 2nd Main, Teacher Colony H B R Layout Kalyananagar, Bengaluru - 560043 have changed my name to Rupinder Sharma.

I Rani Verma W/O, Rupinder Sharma R/o No 216 Prasanna Aswarthy Nilaya 3rd Cross 2nd Main, Teacher Colony H B R Layout Kalyananagar, Bengaluru - 560043 have changed my name to Zoya Sharma.

I, PRIYA RANGANTHAN residing at Flat No 111, MC Sarovar Annexe, Medahalli, K R Puram, Virgonagar Post, Bengaluru -560049. I have changed my name to PRIYA RANGANATHAN. Vide affidavit dated 13/10/2025 sworn before notary. S N Madhu Bengaluru

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Avatar documentary— Actor Zoe Saldana shared that James Cameron "is considering a documentary about the making of Avatar -- giving us a chance to explain, in a meticulous way, why performance capture is the most empowering form of acting"

Sushmita had a plan

Actress says she was even ready to run away with Renee if she were not allowed to adopt her...

Sushmita Sen has not only won hearts for her beauty or acting skills, but also for her personal choices. Fresh out of the pageantry, while finding a footing in Bollywood, at the age of 21, Sushmita Sen decided to embrace motherhood. It was a bold decision, which was ahead of its time, especially because she wanted to be a single parent.

She legally wanted to adopt a girl child, and she was so determined that she told her father to keep the car running and run with the baby if the judge didn't rule in their favor. The matter never escalated to that level, as the court's ruling was in Sushmita's favour, and that is how she adopted her first child, Renee.

The actress started the procedure when she was 21, but the system did all the due diligence, and the final verdict came in when Sushmita was 24. Speaking about the same in an interview with Dr Sheen Gurrib, she said, "When I legally became an adult at 21, I knew this was what I wanted to do. So, from 21 to 24, the legal battle began. Once it started, at least I had my daughter with me under foster care. But you live with the constant trauma of 'What if the family court does not pass this in my favor? They'll take the child back, and now this child has started calling me Ma.' I had a plan."

The plan was to run away with the child if things went sideways. Her father tried to tell her that's not how things should be done, but the actress only knew one thing back then: she couldn't lose the child. "I told my dad at the hearing just to keep the car running; he would take her and drive away. My father said, 'Now we are really pushing it. We're not going to do any of that.' But I was adamant - they couldn't take my baby away from me."

She shared how her father's support helped her adopt her children. She revealed her father signed over half of his assets in the name of Renee when the court asked him to show financial intent for child support.

—ETimes

Never say never

Gulshan Devaiah recently opened up about his character and performance in Rishab Shetty's Kantara Chapter 1. He also revealed why he accepted a negative role at a time when he is declining many others.

In an interview with Moneycontrol, Gulshan said, "Never say never. I want to do things where I can really have a genuine conviction... From the first film. Because I'm a fan. I saw the first film. It blew me away... it's almost like you are getting possessed."

Elaborating further, he added, "So never say never to negative parts unless that's a part that compels me to say that no, you have to do this. But I want to have a genuine point of interest also in exploring that part and being a part of that story. It's usually the character. First, it's the character and then how that character is in the story. And it has to be genuine from me. Because I'm a fan. I saw the first film. It blew me away. And it's one of the best climaxes I might have ever experienced. Not seen. Experienced. Because when that... When his framing and Rishabh's performance and Ajinish's music kicks in, it's almost like you are getting possessed."

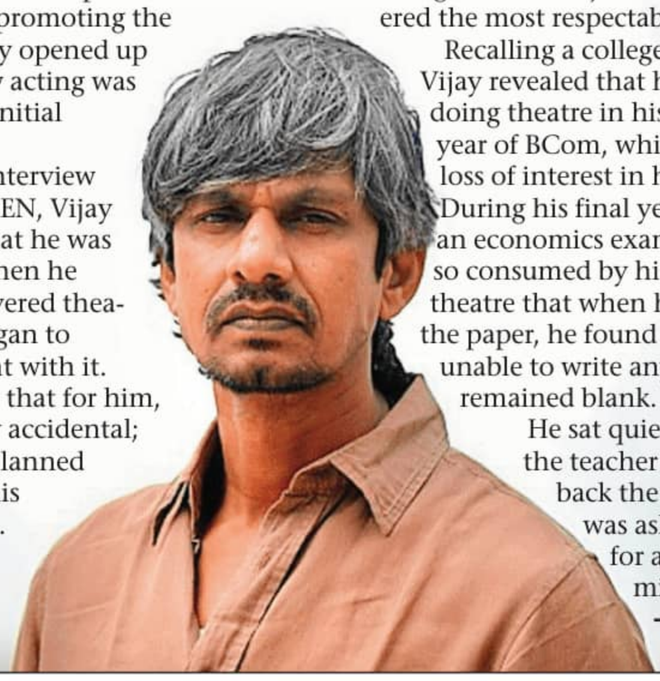
—ETimes

Accidental actor

Vijay Raaz has built an impressive career in the entertainment industry spanning nearly thirty years. He expanded his presence into the digital realm starting in 2019, earning acclaim for his roles in web series such as 'Made In Heaven', 'Sherni', 'Murder In Mahim' and 'Showtime'. Currently, he holds a pivotal role in the second season of Jamnaapar. In a recent interview promoting the show, Vijay opened up about how acting was never his initial ambition.

In an interview with SCREEN, Vijay recalled that he was only 19 when he first discovered theatre and began to experiment with it.

He said that for him, it was very accidental; he never planned to enter this profession. Life was moving along as he worked a job as an accountant and attended evening college. One day, he met some people involved in theatre and heard the term for the first time. That moment at 19 marked the beginning of his journey. Initially, his family thought he was busy and were glad he was doing something productive. But, when they realised that acting was going to be his permanent career, it posed a problem. His father, a government servant, lived in a time when government jobs were considered the most respectable.



Recalling a college incident, Vijay revealed that he began doing theatre in his second year of BCom, which led to a loss of interest in his studies. During his final year, he faced an economics exam but was so consumed by his love for theatre that when he received the paper, he found himself unable to write anything and remained blank.

He sat quietly, asked the teacher to take back the paper, but was asked to wait for at least 30 minutes.

–ETimes

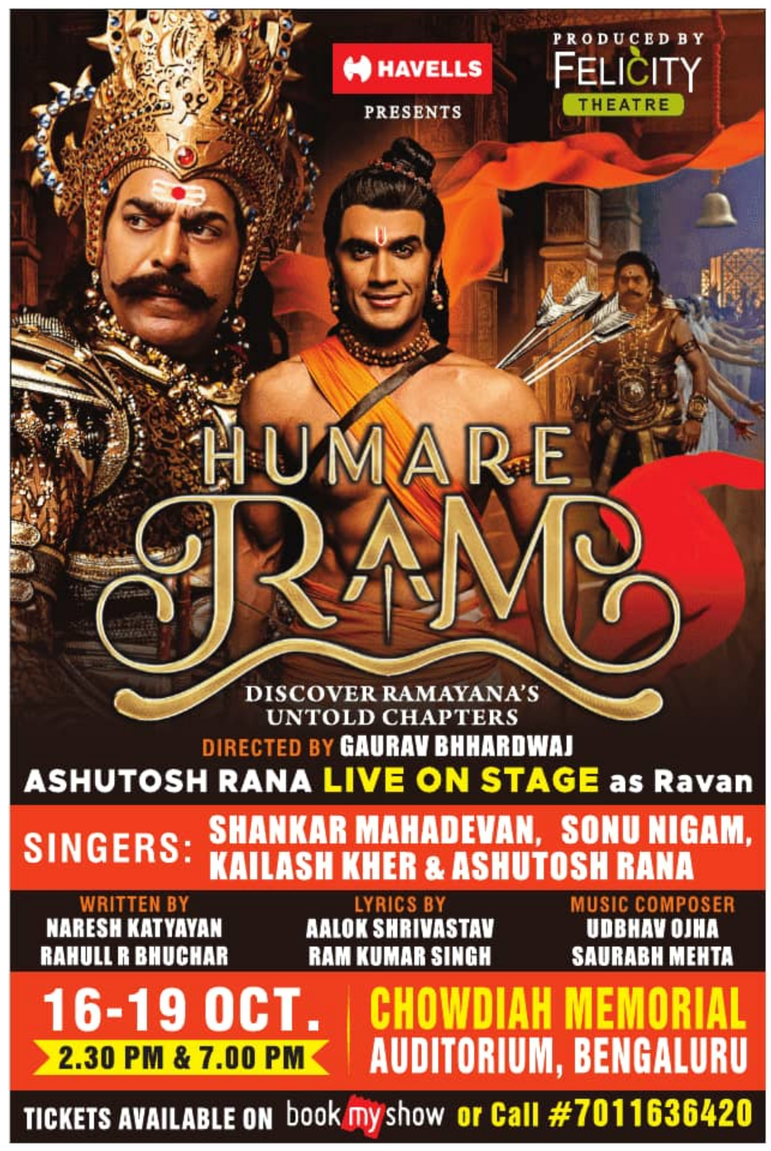
How to shut down rumours

Hollywood star Keanu Reeves said his visual artiste girlfriend Alexandra Grant did a "wonderful" job playing down their marriage rumours, reports 'Female First UK'.

The actor has been in a relationship with Grant since 2018, and there was speculation last month that the loved up couple had secretly tied the knot. Speaking to E! News, he quipped, "Well, that wasn't the first time. We've been going out for a long time." He admitted while people sent "a lot of nice messages", he was happy with how his partner handled the situation. He shared, "The wedding, it's a nice thing. People did a lot of nice messages and stuff, but Alexandra just did a wonderful (job) addressing..."

Last month, Alexandra shared a photo of her and Keanu, 61, kissing at an art installation, and clarified the situation. She wrote, "This is a real photo. Not an engagement photo or an AI wedding announcement... I'm sharing it here to say thank you to everyone for the congratulations on our wedding. Except we didn't get married..."

—IANS



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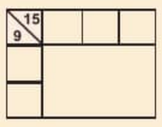
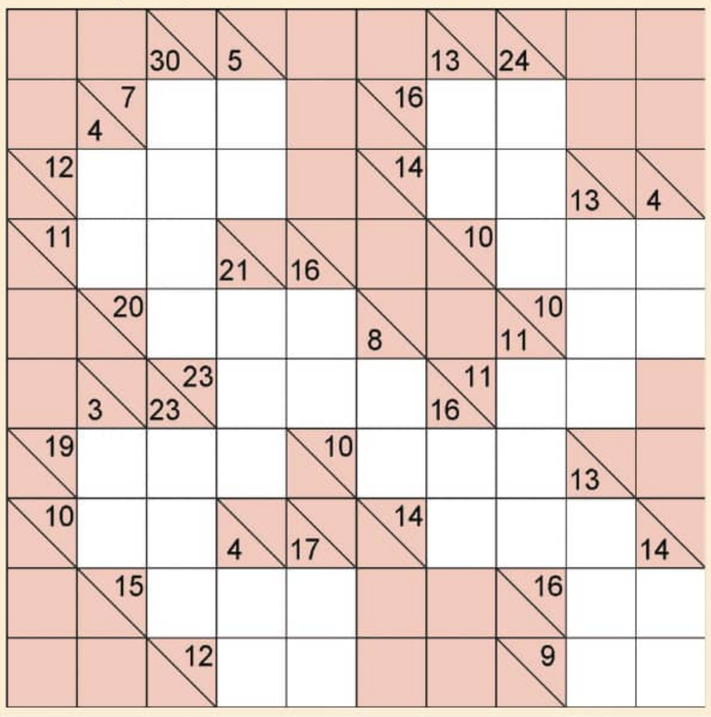
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

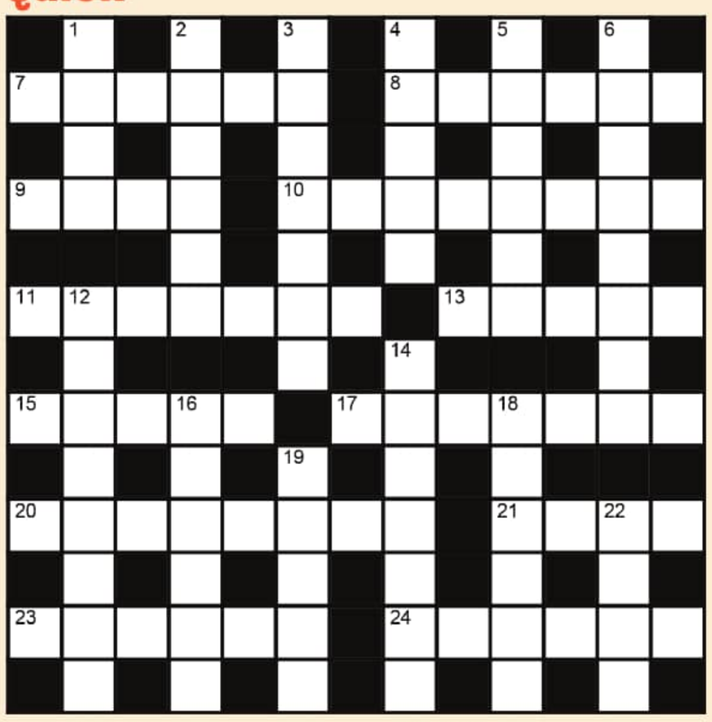
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Woman's hat (6)
8 Canopied seat on an elephant's back (6)
9 Top-notch (1-3)
10 Talented or accomplished; cultural (8)
11 Toy dog breed (7)
13 __ ___ of : via ? (2,3)
15 Poker hand (5)
17 Increment–"easy rip" anagram? (3-4)
20 In decline (2,3,3)
21 The Great ____ : Shakespeare of course? (4)
23 Lustrous (6)
24 Temporary malfunction (6)

DOWN

1 ___ ___ speak : familiarly meaning that...? (2,2)
2 Put in (6)
3 Austrian waltz composer (7)
4 Closes or slams (5)
5 Contorted–"witty's" anagram? (6)
6 Hired vehicles? (4-4)
12 Considering everything (3,2,3)
14 Bangalore's famed botanical gardens (7)
16 Disunion (6)
18 Emphasises, repeats embarrassing facts, etc. (4,2)
19 African country (5)
22 Biryani base (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS H

I QPIH MPQQ TNG ZY ZYQPY-LYB, YLYT MKYT KY OVYIEO GKY GHFGK.

Linemaro

She: I'm in a relationship. You: Let's talk about how we can get you out of that

Mindchow

When a great man dies, for years the light he leaves behind him lies on the paths of men

Joke of the day

In Milan, traffic lights are instructions; in Rome, they are suggestions; in Naples, they are Christmas decorations

Loop

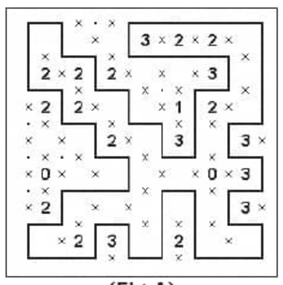
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

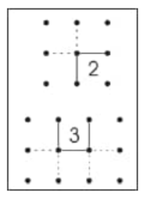
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

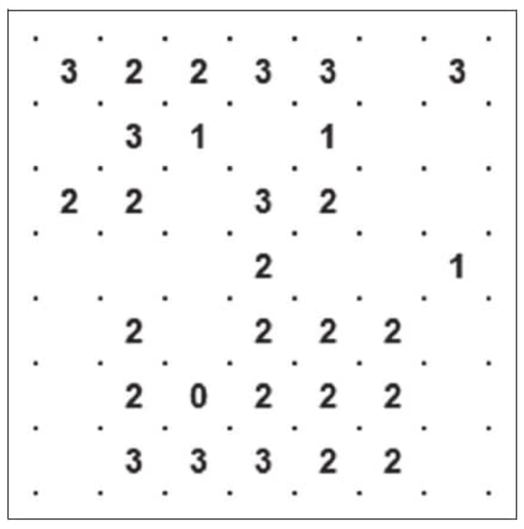
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



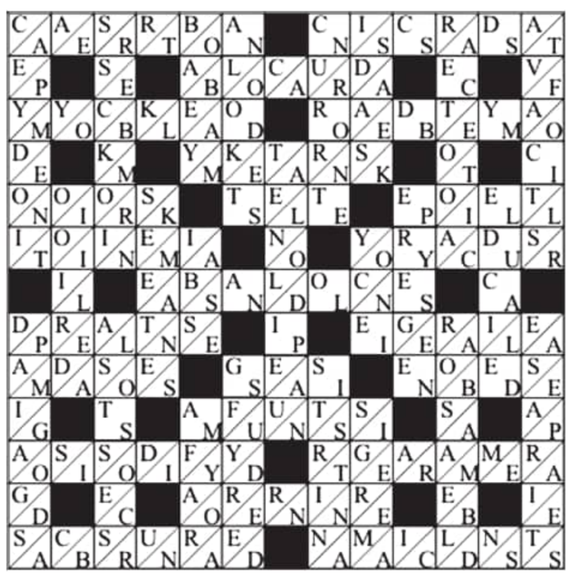
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				Y

ACROSS

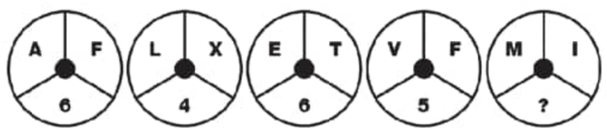
1 Map as; 6 In nap;
7 Eve SL; 8 Slain;
9 L duly

DOWN

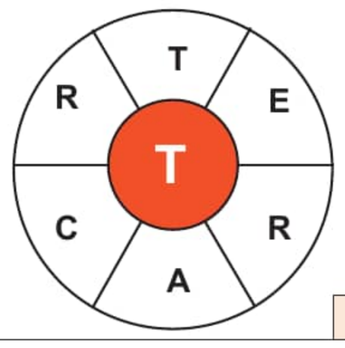
1 Pends; 2 Pauli;
3 Vilna; 4 Sell N;
5 Say Ms

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing from the last circle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

11 Average; **13** Good; **15** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2	8						1	6
5				7				3
			1	6	8			
1		3				8		5
		6	3		4	2		
9		7				6		1
			8	3	1			
6				2				8
7	1						2	4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 7

1 5 5 6

Medium = 9

2 3 4 8

Hard = 63

2 4 5 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

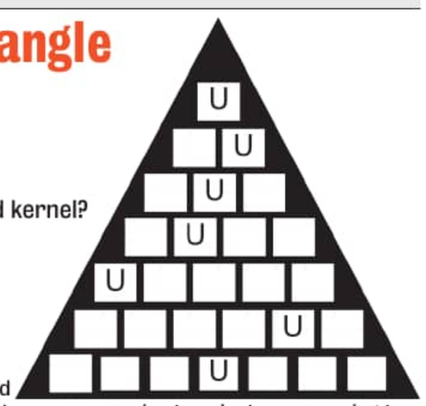
Differences: 1. Number on mailbox is lower. 2. Window is different. 3. Thumb is moved. 4. Envelope is missing. 5. Patch on sleeve is moved. 6. Mailman is thinner.

Riddler

Name the automobile companies: 1. river wading place 2. ringed planet 3. famous emancipator 4. weep convulsively 5. Star Wars action figure 6. earth wanderer

Alpha triangle

1 Universal, abbr.
2 Xi preceder
3 Large cask
4 Mom's sibling
5 Not suitable
6 Salted or roasted kernel?
7 Garden bloom



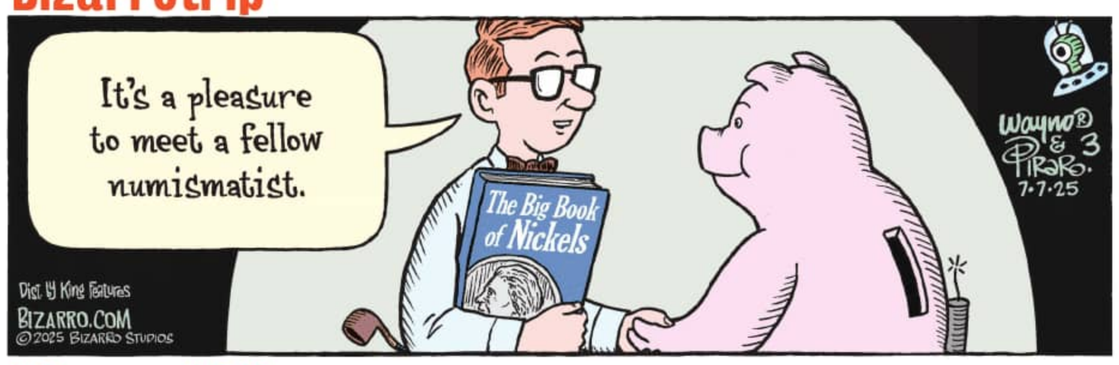
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

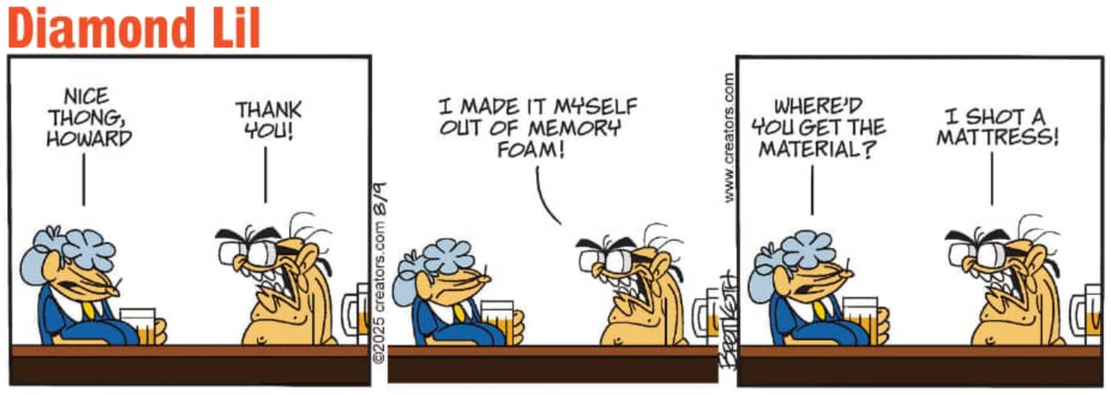
COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

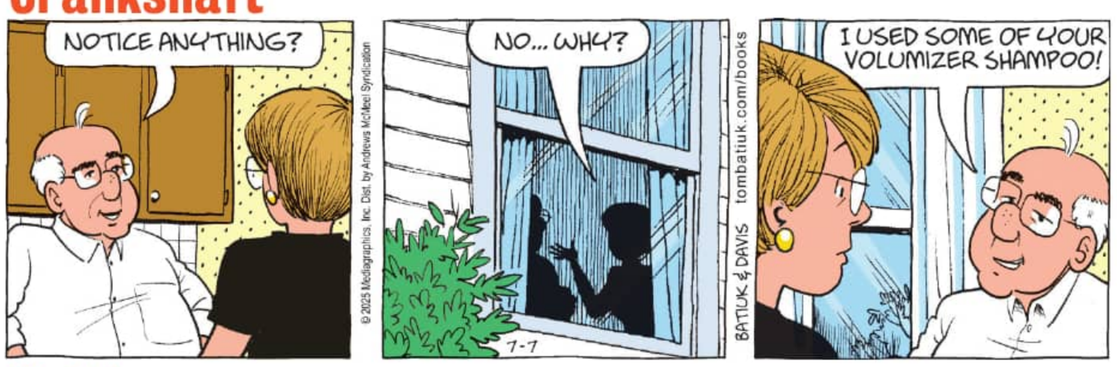


Diamond Lil

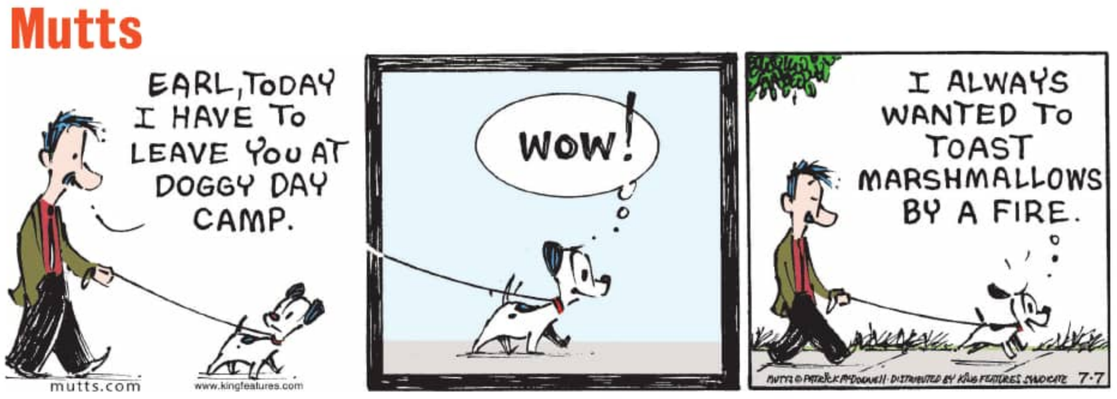


Hart of the city

Crankshaft



Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

This year celebrates independence, bold action, and self-discovery. Career ambitions thrive when you trust your vision. Opportunities for leadership expand. Relationships deepen when you balance freedom with loyalty. Finances improve with innovative approaches. Travel or exploration broadens perspective. Health strengthens through adventurous, active choices.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Move cautiously today. Spontaneity may backfire; strategy safeguards success. Plan each step deliberately, consider outcomes, and execute with care. Careful choices ensure smooth progress.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Fun, frolic, and socialising colour your day. Step outside your comfort zone. Attend events, meet people, and embrace new experiences. Joyful connections broaden your perspective.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Emotional waves rise today. Irritation is possible— don't project tantrums outwards. It's best to retreat with rest, television, or comfort. Solitude restores balance, preventing conflict.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Exhaustion weighs heavy. Step back from duties—consider a companion outing or light gathering. Even if parties aren't your style, occasional relaxation restores energy and renews perspective beautifully.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Stress lifts today. Relaxed energy brings happiness for you and others. Relish your lighthearted mood, spread joy, and embrace being a radiant bubble of cheerfulness that uplifts your surroundings.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Idealism strengthens. Cosmic support empowers confidence and cheer. Yet power brings responsibility— use it wisely. Balance optimism with duty, and channel your influence constructively for harmony.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Family bonds or love connections flourish today. Gatherings or intimate moments restore balance, reminding you of your priorities. Relationships strengthen positively, offering comfort and joy. Enjoy supportive companionship fully.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Unexpected developments brighten your outlook. A surprising turn uplifts your mood, transforming negativity into energy. Positivity and motivation carry you forward, keeping your day vibrant.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Contentment prevails. Accept surrounding changes gracefully, knowing everything aligns in your favour. Trust the flow, relish the peace, and allow satisfaction to guide gratitude-filled steps. Harmony surrounds you fully now.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Seek solitude. Introspection supports self-realisation. Quiet reflection uncovers inner truths, revealing hidden aspects of your psyche. Alone time heals, restores balance, and helps you understand yourself completely.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

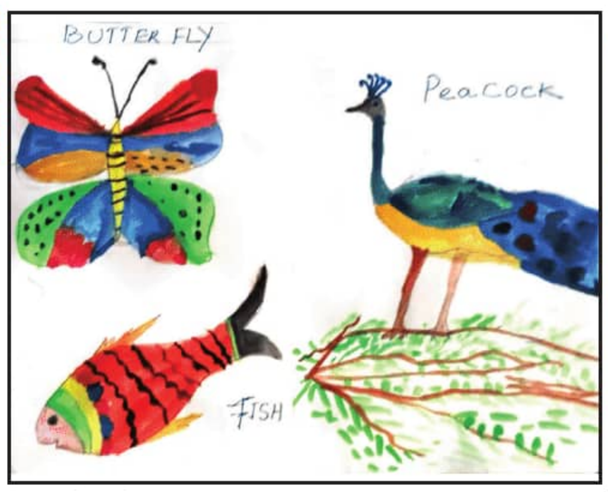
Optimism radiates. You see opportunity even within challenges. Positivity motivates you and inspires others— share this contagious energy freely. Uplift your surroundings, spreading encouragement and joy wherever you go.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Family and friends crave your presence. Dedicate time sincerely; neglect feels hurtful, even unintentionally. Attention strengthens bonds, reminding loved ones of their value. Shared moments restore warmth and harmony.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



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Saakshi, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

$= \sqrt[3]{4} \times \sqrt[3]{(4^2)} + \sqrt[4]{(625 + 100)}$

$= \sqrt[3]{4^3} + \sqrt[4]{5^4} = 4 + 5 = 9$

RIDDLER

1. Ford, 2. Saturn, 3. Lincoln, 4. Saab (sob), 5. Toyota (toy Yoda, HA-HA) & 6. Land Rover

FAST FIVE

S	P	A	S	M
P	I	N	N	A
E	L	V	E	S
N	A	I	L	S
D	U	L	L	Y

QUOTE UNCODE

A liar will not be believed, even when he speaks the truth.

STRIKE OUT

C	A	R	T	O	N	■	C	I	C	A	D	A	■	■
E	■	E	■	B	O	A	R	D	■	C	■	V	■	■
M	O	C	K	E	D	■	O	E	D	E	M	A	■	■
E	■	K	■	Y	E	A	R	S	■	T	■	I	■	■
N	O	O	K	■	S	E	E	■	P	I	L	L	■	■
T	I	N	E	A	■	O	■	O	R	C	U	S	■	■
■	L	■	A	B	A	L	O	N	E	■	C	■	■	■
A	D	O	S	■	G	A	S	■	N	O	D	S	■	■
G	■	S	■	A	U	N	T	S	■	A	■	P	■	■
O	S	S	I	F	Y	■	R	E	A	M	E	R	■	■
D	■	E	■	A	E	R	I	E	■	E	■	I	■	■
A	B	S	U	R	D	■	A	M	I	D	S	T	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

5. In each circle, the digit is equal to the number of straight lines used to write the two letters in the same circle.

BULL'S EYE

cart, cater, crate, crater, rate, ratter, react, RETRACT, tact, tart, tear, trace, tracer, tract, treat

SUDOKU

2	8	9	5	4	3	1	7	6
5	6	1	9	7	2	4	8	3
3	7	4	1	6	8	9	5	2
1	2	3	7	9	6	8	4	5
8	5	6	3	1	4	2	7	9
9	4	7	2	8	5	6	3	1
4	9	2	8	3	1	5	6	7
6	3	5	4	2	7	1	9	8
7	1	8	6	5	9	3	2	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE

U, Nu, Tun, Aunt, Unapt, Peanut, Petunia.

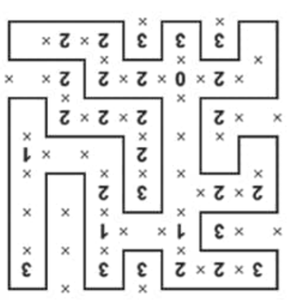
GO FIGURE

6 – 5 + 1 + 5 = 7
Easy

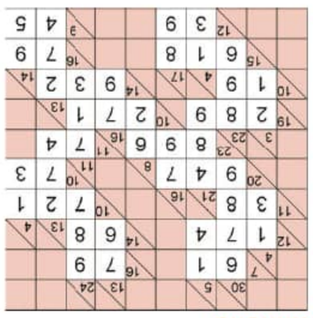
3 – 4 + 2 + 8 = 9
Medium

4 + 9 x 5 – 2 = 63
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



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सत्यमेव जयते

संसद सदस्य स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास योजना
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Inauguration of
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by

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs

Methagal, Koppal	Jawalagera, Raichur	Konchigeri, Ballari	Kasapura, Vijayanagara
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